



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Philip L. Ravenhill papers, 1953-1973

Lorain Wang

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Philip L. Ravenhill papers
Date:	1953-1979 (bulk 1970-1973)
Identifier:	NAA.2010-25
Creator:	Ravenhill, Philip L. Timyan, Judith
Extent:	1.7 Linear feet (4 document boxes and 5 sound recordings plus 1 map folder)
Language:	Primarily English. Some materials are in Wan, Baule, and French.
Summary:	These papers of Philip L. Ravenhill primarily document the period during which he was a graduate student at the New School for Social Research and contain his field research on the Wan and neighboring groups in the Ivory Coast. There are also some some research files of Judith Timyan, whom Ravenhill was married to at the time.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by his former wife, Judith Timyan.

Related Materials

Philip L. Ravenhill's curatorial records are at the Smithsonian Institution Archives. The Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives of the National Museum of African Art holds photographs from Ravenhill's research trip to Mali in 1989.

Processing Information

The papers of Philip L. Ravenhill were received unarranged. The processing archivist reboxed the collection in archival folders and organized the folders in alphabetical order. Original folder titles were retained with titles assigned by the archivist placed within square brackets. Sound recordings were not reviewed to confirm contents. Sound recording numbers were assigned by the archivist.

Processed by Lorain Wang, April 2012.

Preferred Citation

Philip L. Ravenhill papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The Philip L. Ravenhill papers are open for research.

Access to the Philip L. Ravenhill papers requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Philip L. Ravenhill was the chief curator of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art, where he worked from 1987 until his death in 1997. He was born in 1945 in Bath, England. He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Nyack College (1968) and his Ph.D. in anthropology from the New School for Social Research (1976), where he studied under Thomas O. Beidelman. As a doctoral student, he conducted field research on the Wan in the central Ivory Coast. He had initially intended to study interethnic relations between the Wan and the Baule. Due to a flood that forced many of the Baule villages to relocate, Ravenhill focused his research on the social organization of the Wan. Prior to joining the Smithsonian, he was a senior research fellow at the International African Institute in London and project director of the West African Museums Project in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Source Consulted

Cotter, Holland. 1997. Philip L. Ravenhill, 52, Expert On the Art and Culture of Africa. *The New York Times*, October 16. <http://www.nytimes.com/1997/10/16/arts/philip-l-ravenhill-52-expert-on-the-art-and-culture-of-africa.html> (accessed April 5, 2012).

Scope and Contents

The papers of Philip L. Ravenhill primarily document the period during which he was a graduate student at the New School for Social Research. The collection contains his field research on the Wan, including linguistic notes and notebooks with interlinear translations of Wan folktales and proverbs; archival and bibliographic research; field recordings; and a draft of his dissertation. The collection also contains his research on neighboring groups in the Ivory Coast, including the Baule, as well as some research files of Judith Timyan, whom Ravenhill was married to at the time. Additional materials includes correspondence, course papers and exams, grant applications, and maps.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Arrangement

Folders are arranged in alphabetical order. The sound recordings are at the end.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Baule (African people)
Language and languages -- Documentation
Wan (African People)

Cultures:

Baule (African people)
Wan (African People)

Places:

Ivory Coast

Container Listing

Box 1	Archives Documentation, undated
Box 1	Bibliography of Ivoirien Ethnography, etc., undated
Box 1	Collection of Baoule Phrases, undated
Box 1	[Correspondence w/ Rene Bravmann], 1975
Box 1	[Correspondence with T.O. Beidelman], 1974, undated
Box 1	Data Sheets Project, 1972, undated Notes: Baule (submitted by Judith Timyan) and Anyi
Box 1	[Draft of "The Social Organization of the Wan: a Patrilineal People of Ivory Coast", 1 of 2], undated Notes: Dissertation
Box 1	[Draft of "The Social Organization of the Wan: a Patrilineal People of Ivory Coast", 2 of 2], undated
Box 1	Fiche no. 1, undated
Box 1	Fiche no. 3, undated
Box 1	[Field notebook], 1973 January 16-April 18
Box 1	[Field notebook], 1973 February 2-April 6
Box 1	[Field notebook], 1973 April 9 – August 6
Box 1	[Field notebook], 1973 April 20-June 2
Box 2	[Field notebook], 1973 June 8-August 10
Box 2	[Field notebook], 1973 August 10-November 9
Box 2	[Field notebook] E5, 1973 November 9-1974 January 8
Box 2	[Field notebook], 1974 January 10-March 26
Box 2	[Field notebook] E7, 1974 March 27-June 21
Box 2	[Field notebook] E #8, 1974 June 26-September 13

Box 2	[Field notebook] E #9, 1974 September 16-24
Box 2	[Field notebook -- linguistic notes], undated
Box 2	Finances -- Philip Ravenhill, 1972-1974
Box 2	[French and Wan vocabulary], undated
Box 2	[Grant applications], 1972-1975
Box 2	Index, undated
Box 2	[Kalabari religion], undated
Box 2	Les Langues Mandé-Sud du Groupe Mana-Busa by R.P.A. Prost, 1953
Box 3	[Letters authorizing Ravenhill and his wife, Judith, to conduct research in the Ivory Coast], 1972-1974
Box 3	Mambu, undated Notes: Notes on Tangu --reading notes on Mambu: A Melanesian Millennium by Kenelth Burridge
Folder Map Folder	[Map of Rive Droite Nord du Bandama], undated
Folder Map Folder	[Map of Yoboue N'Zue], undated
Box 3	N.S. Correspondence, 1970-1972 Notes: New School for Social Research
Box 3	[Ngin, Wan, Mona, Yaouré survey report], 1974
Box 3	[Notes on Wan for Hunter lecture ("Language & Culture" course)], undated
Box 3	[Outline of areas of concentration for oral examination], circa 1970s Notes: Ravenhill and Thomas R. Moore's outlines
Box 3	[Paramaka religions], undated
Box 3	[Ravenhill's graded test for Cosmology & Religion, taught by T.O. Beidelman], 1979
Box 3	[References and reading notes], undated
Box 3	[Religious Utterances and the Theory of Speech Acts], 1972
Box 3	Proverbes, undated

Box 3	Proverbs [1], undated
Box 3	Proverbs [2], undated
Box 3	[Report of Wan research to Institut d'Ethno-sociologie], circa 1974
Box 3	[Report on visit to building site of the new village of Bourebo], 1973 Notes: Judith Timyan served as translator between the villagers and government officials
Box 3	A revised word list of Wan, 1973
Box 3	Riddles -- Tape I, undated
Box 3	Social Organization of the Wan, undated
Box 3	Some notes on the phonology of Wan, 1973
Box 3	Tangu, undated
Box 3	[Unidentified aerial photograph], undated
Box 3	[Various notes], 1974, undated Notes: Includes notes for articles, kinship charts, notes on audio recordings
Box 3	[Visa request], 1974
Box 3	[Wan (?) language notes], undated
Box 3	[Wan language -- Data Sheets Project], 1974
Box 4	Wan Stories [2 -- 4], circa 1973
Box 4	Wan Stories [5 -- 7], circa 1973
Box 4	Wan Stories [8 -- 10], circa 1973
Box 4	Wan Stories [11, 14], circa 1973
Box 4	William Wade Harris, Bernus #345, Paulme #382, undated
Box 4, Item 1	[Recording] Wã -- Historical Accounts 1, undated 1 Sound recording (1 cassette tape) Cassette tape Audio: Ravenhill SR 1 side 1: undated

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 1 side 2: undated](#)

Notes: A) Tugalani --Goli/origin of Wā - Kāngɔsei (birth, wars) Wā in current site --Myāme & Kɛŋmū --Gloŋ --adoration and totems of earth Bɔwli Kale - Kāngɔsei (birth, war, disappearance) - Myāme & Kɛŋmū
B) Bɔwli Kale --margouillat --Goli to Baoule --earth (totems & adoration --war w. whites --Chef de Canton of Kɛŋmū --Wā at Gyemisia --Wā at present site --origin of ea. Mask --origin of [?]lemū

Box 4, Item 2

[Recording] Wā -- Historical Accounts 2, undated
1 Sound recording (1 cassette tape.)
Cassette tape

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 2 side 1: undated](#)

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 2 side 2: undated](#)

Notes: A) Bɔwli Kale --Songs, origins
B) Bɔwli Kale

Box 4, Item 3

[Recording] Wan -- Historical Accounts 3, undated
1 Sound recording (1 cassette tape.)
Cassette tape

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 3 side 1: undated](#)

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 3 side 2: undated](#)

Notes: A) C/A: Mvs K/ - Gouro vs Wan --war at Kovatta --Wan killed D. Béoumi Tuglani: M vs. K --Dŋagbe Gblɛŋgble quarrel --Agbao/Boueba quarrel --Wan, Gourd quarrel, war with Dyula (provoked by KS) --M.K. vs K.S. --whites @ Bourébo --Myunu act Kɛŋmū
B) Tuglani : Agwa --Yonɛ, Zetɛ: M and K papaya -; Mus K. --KS war --Disappearance of K.S. --birth of K.S. Nfoo --Disappearance of K.S., Blacks and whites myth --origin of death

Box 4, Item 4

[Recording] Toto Kro , Feb 1974 Atsnule Songs, 1973-1974
1 Sound tape reel (5 in.)
5" audio reel

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 4 side 2: 1973-1974](#)

[Audio: Ravenhill SR 4 side 1: 1973-1974](#)

Notes: A: 17 Dec. 73 Men's Songs at house-plastering --Toto Kro 00-90, 14 Jan. Wisemen's [?] Songs at pond cleaning
B: Toto Kro 1 Feb 1974 Atsnule songs

Box 4, Item 5

[Recording] Wan Historical Accounts -- Chief, undated
1 Sound tape reel (5 in.)
5" audio reel, 1 7/8 ips?, tails out
[Audio: Ravenhill SR 5: undated](#)